

HOLCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

www.holcombepc.org.uk

Clerk: Vickie Watts, Gallant Hill Farm, Foxcote, Radstock, BA3 5YB
clerk@holcombepc.org.uk 07971 516916 - 01749 880428

**Minutes from Holcombe Parish Council meeting, which took place on
Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 7.30 pm.**

Councillors Present Cllr Graham Crowe (Chair)
 Cllr Phil Gait
 Cllr Simon Brand
 Cllr Stephenie Chorley
 Cllr Anne Golledge
 Cllr Robert Mitchell
 Cllr Sue Robinson
 Cllr Russell Stokes

In attendance: County Cllr Pullin and the Clerk, Vickie Watts taking the minutes and no members of the public

Public forum.

There were no points raised.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Terry Dumbrell, District Cllr Ham and District Cllr Townsend had sent apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

All Councillors had an interest in the 2 planning applications 2019/2966/ADV and 2019/2965/FUL for the Parish flag pole.

Cllr Robinson expressed an interest in the planning application 2020/0008/TPO – Works/ Felling of TPO Trees at The Oasis, Brewery Lane, Holcombe

4 Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on 7th January 2020

The draft minutes for the abovementioned meeting had been circulated to all Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Gait and seconded by Cllr Mitchell that the minutes were an accurate record so were signed by the chairman Cllr Crowe. The Clerk to upload minutes to the website.

VW

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

5 Action points from last meeting and matters arising.

All actions have been completed or were to be discussed during this meeting apart from:

- The Clerk confirmed that Truespeed have confirmed that the Village Hall can receive free Broadband for life with installation taking place in March 2020. This will mean that the Council will pay an inflated rate to PlusNet for the next few months but in the long run there would be a saving.
- Cllr Mitchell agreed to remove the gate from the kissing gate at Jubilee Gardens for it to be stored at Cllr Golledge's garage for a period of time to establish whether the gate should remain off or be replaced. RM
- Cllr Gait asked if MDC Planning Office had responded to the question as to why the neighbours had not been consulted on application 2019/2882/CLE. Clerk to follow this up for a response. VW

6 Planning Applications

6.1 2019/2966/ADV and 2019/2965/FUL – Proposal: Erection of a 10m Flagpole. Holcombe Playing Field, & Brewery Lane, Holcombe, Shepton Mallet

6.2 The Councillors all declared an interest in both applications but agreed that they would notify MDC Planning office that they had an interest and were in support of the application

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstention

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- 6.3 2020/0008/TPO – Works/ Felling of TPO Trees at The Oasis, Brewery Lane, Holcombe
Cllr Robinson declared an interest in the application and did not take part in the discussion. It was proposed by Cllr Stokes and seconded by Cllr Golledge that the application should be approved as it was routine management of the trees. VW

Vote: 7 For, 0 Against & 1 Abstentions

- 6.4 2019/2470/FUL – Demolition of existing garages and creation of 2 x 3 bed semi-detached homes.
After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council had no further comments as there were no material amendments with this revised application.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

7 Planning updates

There were none.

Application 2020/0182/FUL Erection of a general-purpose agricultural building. Southmead Farm Charlton Road Holcombe Radstock BA3 5EX had been received. The Clerk had requested an extension to allow this to be considered at the March meeting although there had been no response as yet. Ag VW

8 Mendip Local Plan Part II: Sites and Policies: Consultation on Proposed Main Modifications

It was agreed that Cllr Gait would consider the main modifications and complete the relevant form to respond.

9 Reports

- 9.1 PCSO report – A report had been received Crime statistics / recorded crime from 1st – 31st DEC are as follows:

- Residential burglaries - 0
- Non dwelling Burglaries – 1
- Criminal Damage – 0
- Theft from a Motor Vehicle – 0
- Theft of Motor Vehicle - 0
- Theft - 0
- ASB – 0

The minutes from the PACT meeting had also been circulated to all councillors

- 9.2 District Council Report – District Cllr Townsend and District Cllr Ham were unable to attend as they had to attend Mendip's Scrutiny and Cabinet meeting. The following report was provided:

> Recycle More - the new County-wide programme with new vehicles and the 3 weekly non-recyclable collection will start with Mendip in June. There will be at least two rounds of publicity with the aim of making it clear what additional items will be recyclable and encouraging people to put food waste in the right bin.

> Council Reorganisation - the option preferred by County is for one Unitary organisation. Mendip wish to explore other options possibly favouring the retention of the existing structure but with the District councils working more closely together. A business case for this is being prepared for July Cabinet.

> Climate Emergency - members of the public made urgent pleas for action. A report was presented showing a detailed baseline of the sources of CO2 emissions in the District. Domestic heating and insulation are highlighted. Council funded electric car charging points are being explored. Just a reminder too of the public Climate Event being held at Mendip on 15th February from 10-00 until 4-00.

> Finance - tonight's Cabinet is reviewing our financial position over the short and medium term. A recommendation for the 20/21 Council Tax will be made.

> The PACT meeting on 20th January at the Coleford RBL was very poorly attended with more officials than members of the public. Priorities were again set as Speeding, Rural Theft and Poaching. On speeding the view from all parties was that in addition to SID data publicity was vital and threats of going to the press have helped others. John Gould is retiring and Mike Storey is moving, replacements are being sought.

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- 9.3 Somerset County Council – County Cllr Mike Pullin attended the meeting and reported that the grant application for support with the Playing Field path was successful and the money should be transferred to the bank account imminently.

He explained that work on the outstanding small improvement schemes (Approx. 89 schemes) continue and it is hoped that they will all be completed by the end of 2021. It is possible that a new round of SIS funding will be open for applications at the end of 2020.

The Parish Council expressed frustration at the lack of action from Somerset Highways despite numerous attempts to arrange a meeting to discuss the options available to slow traffic in Holcombe. If they were to advise what schemes could be implemented it would then allow the council the opportunity to consult with the parishioners to establish which scheme would be most welcome, which could then be progressed and if needed funding secured.

Councillors felt that over the years data showing that speeding was an issue in the village had been obtained whilst using SCC Highways installed equipment, parish speed watch and obtained from the speed indicator device. It felt that it was not worth pursuing with more data collection until SCC Highways confirmed what was required to trigger action.

It was agreed that there would be no further discussions regarding speeding or white lining to prevent parking in the village until the meeting with Rebecca Davies of SCC Highways. Clerk to liaise with Mike Pullin to arrange the meeting.

VW

County Cllr Pullin stated that there has been much discussion around Unitary and how it could save large amounts of money for the County. There are several possibilities which are being considered at present. It could be arranged for David Fothergill, the leader of Somerset County Council, to visit and discuss the benefits if it was felt this would be helpful.

10 Finance

- 10.1 Income - The following income had been received during the previous month:

Nat West	Interest	£5.31
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- 10.2 Bank Reconciliation - The Clerk had prepared the bank reconciliation which Cllr Mitchell checked after the meeting and found to be in order.

- 10.3 Discuss and review the 3rd quarter budget 2019/20

The Clerk had circulated a spreadsheet showing the financial situation as at the 31st December 2019. Councillors gave consideration to information provided but felt that all aspects were as expected. It was proposed by Cllr Chorley and seconded by Cllr Robinson that the 3rd quarter budget review be approved and signed by the Chair, Cllr Crowe.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

- 10.4 Emergency plan - Discuss and agree purchase of battle box for St Andrew's Church

Cllr Robinson had circulated a discussion document outlining how St Andrew's can be registered as a Community Place of Safety. A list of items which were needed to be purchased for the battle box were also listed.

Cllr Brand suggested that the draft document should be amended to state that a Parish Council member must be in attendance if the church is used as a place of safety.

Cllr Robinson said that she would meet with the PCC, purchase the equipment and update the emergency plan (including the suggestion made by Cllr Brand) to include St Andrew's as an annex to the plan.

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10.5 Payments

The following payments were presented for payment by the Parish Council:

Vickie Watts – Clerk Salary £271.76 & Expenses £30.86	£302.62
Holcombe Village Hall Hire for Oct -Dec	£49.50
Coleford Parish Council – 1/3 of Clerk SALC training	£25.00

It was proposed by Cllr Crowe and seconded by Cllr Robinson that all payments should be made. Cheques were then signed by Cllrs Chorley and Cllr Stokes.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

11 Discuss, consider and agree whether to purchase a speed indicator device

The Clerk had spoken with the supplier Westcotec who had advised that they could not come to visit but recommended that Councillors visited Wanstrow Parish Council or Midsomer Norton Town Council to look at the units which had been supplied by them.

The Clerk had spoken with Geoff Andrews of Wanstrow PC who advised that they purchased the mini portable unit 2 years ago but they were not currently using it and had decided that they would purchase a newer improved unit which videos the driver which they hoped would lead to the police enforcing fines. They did identify that they would consider selling to Holcombe PC

Cllr Crowe proposed that there be no further discussion until after the meeting with Rebecca Davies of Somerset highways.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

11 Discuss, consider and agree who will complete the Chapter 8 training

The Clerk had spoken to several training providers to give the "working on the Highways" training required by Somerset County Council and established that prices for the training fluctuated from £150 to £300 per delegate with a further charge being payable for the card.

Cllr Crowe proposed that there be no further discussion until after the meeting with Rebecca Davies of Somerset highways.

Vote: 8 For, 0 Against & 0 Abstentions

13 Update on VE Day celebrations

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Thursday the 20th February at Cllr Golledge's home starting at 7.30pm. ALL

Cllr Golledge agreed to visit Frome Heritage museum on the 21st of February to see if they had any items that could be displayed at the VE Day 75 celebrations. AG

14 External meetings to attend and reports on meetings attended

08/02/20 at 10am til 1pm - Defibrillator Training. 15 people have booked places which is close to the maximum attendees recommended. Clerk to liaise with Dave Sprinks to ensure that numbers are not excessive.

10/02/20 – Introduction to Domestic Energy efficiency and Changing Energy related behaviour @ MDC Council chambers 10am to 1pm

11/02/20 – MDC Planning Training @ MDC Council chambers 6pm to 8pm

15 Councillors Reports

15.1 Highways – Cllr Golledge requested that the kerb be dropped on Brewery Lane where the road meets Holcombe Hill. The Clerk will speak with District Cllr Townsend who was going to raise this with SCC Highways last year to see if this can be progressed. VW

Cllr Gait report several large potholes in Common Lane (Coleford Parish) Clerk to report. VW

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Cllr Chorley received a complaint that it was difficult to negotiate out of Silver Street and that the street name plate was not in the most effective place. The Chair asked that the parishioner puts this in writing stating the concerns so that it can be dealt with correctly. SC

Cllr Mitchell said that that were drains blocked on Holcombe Hill outside the Cottage Hairdressers, at Top Wood between the 2 footpaths and on the junction of Longleat Road. The Clerk to report. VW

Cllr Robinson requested that the street cleaning truck should attend. Clerk to arrange. VW

15.2 Village Hall – Cllr Chorley confirmed that the committee met on the 28th January 2020, the following was reported:

- Steve Blount had put together an interesting document with the history of the Village Hall having had to supply copies of the conveyancing documents to the Miners Welfare Trust for them to hold at the Radstock museum. Cllr Chorley will email to all Councillors. SC
- During the meeting the annual accounts were presented.
- Work on improving the interior will be starting soon.
- Initial investigations have shown that the hearing loop could cost between £400 and £1000. A new amplifier is being considered as an option.
- Steve Blount is stepping down as Chairman.
- The January breakfast was very successful.
- Work will commence on a Fire Action plan
- A motorbike rally has been proposed as a fund raiser.
- The next meeting is the AGM on the 24th March 2020

Cllr Chorley said that she had notified the committee that the Gala 2020 will not be taking place but a celebration weekend is planned for VE Day 75 on the 8th - 10th May 2020.

15.3 Playing Field – Cllr Stokes reported:

- The committee were in favour of the CAF money being invested in Hodge Bank.
- There was no update on the Playing Field path however the site visit is to be completed before the end of February with work taking place before VE Day.
- There will be a soup and roll lunch taking place after the defibrillator training on Saturday the 8th February.
- The bin next to the Christmas tree needs to be relocated but it was agreed this would not be done until after the flag pole has been installed and the route of the path identified.
- An Easter egg hunt will take place on 4th April 2020 and a camp out is planned for later in the year.
- It was requested that the payback team decorate the inside of the Changing rooms to allow it to be used for other purposes.
- Next meeting to take place on the 26th February 2020 at the Duke starting at 7.30pm

15.4 Cemetery – The Clerk said that Revd Cridland had confirmed that she hoped to have a response from the faculty for the cemetery path after the 19th February.

Mark Seviour had been in touch to say that next week he would be removing for renovation the memorial bench which he supplied in memory of his mother.

16 Correspondence

16.1 Cllr Russell Stokes had sent an email resigning from the Parish Council with immediate effect. The Clerk will notify MDC and advertise the vacancy for the required period of time. The Chairman thanked Russell for the time he had given to serve on the Council. VW

16.2 Letter from Ros Wyke the leader of Mendip District Council in response to the letter from Dave Fothergill and Unitary. No action required.

17 Dates for next meeting

Tuesday 3rd March 2020 – Parish Council meeting

Meeting finished 21.27hrs